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| To: Environmental Services Committee | | Subject: Implementation/Extension of the Wheeled Bin System |
| From: Director of Environmental Services | | |
| Date: 17 November 1998 | Ref: 164mhlmr | |

Introduction

In February 1998, the Council made a policy decision to extend the domestic wheeled bin system to approximately 10,000 residential properties in the Cumbernauld and Queenzieburn areas. The intention of the proposal was to provide a consistent level and quality of waste containment and collection throughout North Lanarkshire.

The Proposal

The wheeled bin system which is internationally recognised and provides quantifiable benefits including a recognition of the EC Manual Handling Directive in relation to operator safety, improvements in environmental and amenity standards and also increases in operational efficiency, resulting in reductions in revenue expenditure. As part of the Council Budget setting exercise, a revenue reduction of some £90,000 was incorporated.

It was recognised that a number of factors in several of the proposed conversion areas required to be accommodated, viz. house design and aspect, road system layouts, gradients, household access, etc. In early April 1998 the first phase of the implementation programme commenced following the distribution of a leaflet, public exhibitions, meetings with community groups and an extensive number of home visits. A total of approximately 8,000 wheeled bin units were issued in this phase. A customer satisfaction survey questionnaire is in the process of being distributed to all households, commencing late November 1998. The outcome of this comprehensive survey will be reported to Committee as soon as practical.

Up-date

Following representation to the Council from representatives within the next phase of the implementation programme, principally the Westfield area, the Depute Leader of the Council and the Convenor of the Environmental Services Committee required a detailed individual house survey to be carried out. This area comprises some 910 houses. A pro-forma was designed by senior management and the criteria for the survey data collection process was explained to the two staff members to ensure consistency of data collection.

Summary of Surveys

In overall terms, Departmental Management conclude that in their view analysis of the data collected indicates:-

- About one fifth of the total properties have access either to the rear or side of the building to accommodate the wheeled bin system.
- About one third of the total properties have been originally designed to store waste at the front of the building ie. porch, wooden storage box, wall cupboard/bin store (large) NOTE: the 507 small wall cupboard/bin store premises are excluded from this element as this store is unable to accommodate even the small 120 litre wheeled bin.
- The remaining properties ie. 50% would require to store their wheeled bin at the front of the property or take the wheeled bin from the rear through the house to the front collection points.
- The survey therefore concludes that around 80% of properties would most likely require to store the containers at the front of the house.

Survey Details

| | No. | % |
|---|-----|-----|
| • Total premises surveyed | 910 | 100 |
| • Numbers with rear/side access | 157 | 17 |
| • Numbers with original front-of-premise system | | |
| • Wall Bin Store (large) | 148 | 16 |
| ♦ Wooden Box Style | 96 | 11 |
| ♦ Porch | 62 | 7 |
| • Numbers required to store bin at front of property in addition to the above | 447 | 49 |
| • Properties with no existing visible sign of bin/waste store | 195 | 21 |

Topography/Distances to Collection Points

Levels of steps, gradients and ramps within Westfield and distances are no worse or better than many other areas of North Lanarkshire.

The assistance scheme for pull-outs would require further assessment on an individual household basis.

❑ Collection Points

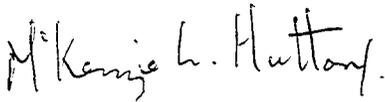
Collection point areas for the put out of bins are not ideal and in some areas will require further analysis eg. Corrie View. It is recognised that residents perceive this aspect as a major disadvantage to the system.

Conclusion

The outcome of the physical survey and relevant factual and constructive comments are outlined above. The views of a proportion of the community have also been made known to the Council through its elected members and officers by individuals and community groups. As a result of this representation, the implementation programme has not progressed within the original timescale and it is considered appropriate for the Committee to determine the level of progress which it would now wish to achieve.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Committee considers the issues relating to the wheeled bin implementation programme.



M.L. Hutton
Director of Environmental Services